

Summer reading
Honors English 10

The Crucible

Directions: Read *The Crucible* and answer all of the questions on the attached study guides.

Bring the completed work to school in August and be prepared to write an in-class essay on the play during the first week of the course.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Directions: Read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and take brief notes on each chapter as you read. Be prepared to take an objective test on the entire novel during the first week of the course.

Note: Don't get bogged down by writing every detail in your notes. The purpose of the note-taking is to help you recall the details for the class discussion and the test. Your notes will not be graded.

Name _____
The Crucible—Act I

1. What is the setting (time and place) of the play?
2. Make a list of at least five words that describe Reverend Parris.
3. Describe the town.
4. How did the village's residents regard the forest and its Indian inhabitants?
5. From what paradox did the Salem tragedy develop?
6. Miller wrote that we, too, "shall be pitied someday." What do you think he meant? Give some examples of why people who look back on us from the year 2400 will pity us.
7. What behaviors of Betty Parris and Ruth Putnam made some feel they were possessed by witches?
8. What did Reverend Parris see in the woods?
9. Why was Abigail discharged from service at the Proctor household?
10. How do the Putnams feel about the possibility of witchcraft in Salem?
11. Why is Thomas Putnam a bitter man?
12. What is Mary Warren's greatest fear?
13. When Betty "wakes up," what does she reveal about Abigail?

14. Who is in control of the group of girls?
15. Describe John Proctor. How does Abigail react to him? What does he tell her?
16. What does Abigail say about the rumors of witchcraft?
17. Do you think Abigail really loves John Proctor?
18. What does Rebecca Nurse believe is afflicting Betty? What caution does she offer?
19. Why do some people resent Francis and Rebecca Nurse?
20. Which of the characters are openly critical of Parris?
21. John Proctor is accused of what by Parris? by Thomas Putnam?
22. Describe Reverend John Hale.
23. What confession does Mrs. Putnam make to Hale?
24. What special purpose does Giles Corey serve in the play?
25. Why does Tituba confess?
26. How does Reverend Hale make Tituba feel important?
27. Who does Tituba say are also witches?
28. How do Abigail and Betty take advantage of what is happening to make sure they will not be blamed for dancing in the forest?

Name _____
The Crucible—Act II

1. From the beginning of Act II, what can you tell about the relationship between John and Elizabeth Proctor?
2. How do we learn what is happening in the town?
3. What do John and Elizabeth both know about the court proceedings?
4. What does John say keeps him from telling the court what he knows? What do you think might be the real reason?
5. How does Proctor treat Mary Warren?
6. Do you think Mary Warren believes that she and the other girls are bewitched? Cite evidence. How is her logic faulty?
7. How does Mary save herself from a whipping? Whom does Elizabeth think accused her of witchcraft?
8. Why does Elizabeth want John to go see Abigail?
9. What does “The promise that a stallion gives a mare I gave that girl!” mean?
10. When Rev. Hale visits, what things seem to go against John and Elizabeth?
11. What important information does John tell Rev. Hale?
12. What are the Proctors’ feelings regarding the existence of witches in general?

13. With what crime has Rebecca Nurse been charged? Why is this a kind of “final proof” that the town has gone mad?

14. What proof has been offered of Martha Corey’s witchcraft?

15. What connection is there between the poppet given to Elizabeth by Mary Warren and her arrest? Do you think Mary Warren knew what would happen and was part of it, or was she “conned” by Abigail?

16. Explain the following:

“Is the accuser always holy now?”

“I’ll tell you what’s walking Salem—vengeance is walking Salem.”

“We are only what we always were, but naked now.”

17. What demand does Proctor make of Mary Warren?

Name _____
The Crucible—Act III

1. What evidence of Martha Corey's witchcraft is the court considering? Have you ever read a fortune in a Chinese fortune cookie? Do you think this court would consider fortune cookies evil?
2. According to Giles Corey, what is Thomas Putnam's purpose in promoting the witch trials?
3. From his actions and statements, what can you conclude about Judge Danforth? What do you think makes him so unwilling to consider that the girls could be pretending?
4. Who are Proctor's allies in his attempt to expose the girls? Who is his enemy? Who apologizes but hurts Proctor's credibility?
5. What "extravagance" does Danforth believe Proctor guilty of?
6. What bargain does Danforth attempt to strike with Proctor, just to make him go away? What makes Proctor want to continue with his attempt to prove the girls are lying?
7. What document does Danforth at first refuse to even look at? What other piece of documentation does he consider, and then make the men wish they had not given him? Why?

8. Why is Giles Corey hesitant to give the name of the man who heard Thomas Putnam say his daughter's outcry against Jacobs had "given him a fair gift of land"?
9. What does Hale point out to Danforth as Giles is being "tried"? What is Danforth's answer?
10. How does Danforth suggest a "way out" for the girls?
11. What finally prompts Proctor to report his affair with Abigail?
12. What metaphor does Proctor use in his appeal to Danforth?
13. How difficult do you think it was for Elizabeth to tell the lie about John's lechery? What dramatic technique is Miller using?
14. What finally completely destroys Proctor's efforts to save his wife?
15. What is Hale's reaction to the events of Act Three?

Name _____
The Crucible—Act IV

1. How much time elapses between the end of Act III and Act IV?
2. Why do Sarah Good and Tituba talk about the devil so openly? Do they really believe in what they are saying?
3. Why is Reverend Hale at the jail?
4. What request does Parris make of Danforth? Would you say that this is because he is disturbed by the deaths of so many citizens?
5. What has happened to Abigail? What is Parris's chief concern?
6. Why is Parris anxious to postpone the death of Rebecca Nurse and John Proctor?
7. What does Danforth give as his reason for not being able to pardon those who refuse to confess?
8. Why is Elizabeth Proctor brought to see John?
9. What does Hale mean when he says to Elizabeth, "cleave to no faith when faith brings blood"? What other reason does he give for its being better for John to confess? Be specific.

10. How does Elizabeth react to Hale and Danforth? Why do you think she feels as she does?
11. How has Proctor changed?
12. What happened to Giles Corey? What was his purpose?
13. What is John's objection to being hanged? Does he seem to fear losing his life? What is his objection to confessing?
14. What is Elizabeth's advice? What apology does she make?
15. At what points in his confession does Proctor falter?
16. What does Proctor mean by "What others say and what I sign is not the same!"?
17. Why do you think John Proctor made the decision he did? Do you think he made the right decision?